

# LACERTA SALAMANDRA.



## CHARACTER GENERICUS.

*Corpus* tetrapodum, ecaudatum, nudum.

*Lin. Syst. Nat.* p. 359.

## CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

LACERTA cauda tereti brevi, pedibus muticis,  
palmis tetradactylis, corpore poroso nudo.

*Lin. Syst. Nat.* p. 371.

## SALAMANDRA.

*Gesn. Quadr.* 80.

## SALAMANDRA TERRESTRIS.

*Ray Quadr.* 273.

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Novum omne et inauditum avida semper aure bibit  
gens humana. Quasi vero ipsa Natura sua non mille  
habeat miracula, nunquam defuere qui de monstris et  
prodigiis, reliquaque infani capitis farragine lubentis-  
sime scripserint.

Istiusmodi sunt dracones illi ingentes ab antiquis  
descripti; nec non Lania, fera nempe quæ corpus  
Pantheræ squamis vestitum, cum capite et mammis  
mulieris fortita est. Huc etiam referenda est Salaman-  
dra, quam vulgus inepte putat in igne illæsam vivere.

Est profecto Salamandra parva lacertæ species, in  
Germania,

Germania, aliisque Europæ regionibus minime rara, coloris nigri, apud latera ventremque maculis magnis longisque vivide flavis, sive aureis decorati. Maculæ hæc interdum magnitudine et figura variant. Tegitur hæc lacerta meatibus, sive foraminibus parvis, humorem quo plerumque madet animal, exudantibus. Hi meatus prope caput magis conspicui sunt quam in reliquo corpore. Cauda ad teretem accedit formam, et longitudine est mediocri, gradatim attenuata.

Hoc est illud animal de quo tot miræ et ridiculæ divulgatæ sunt fabulæ, quodque etiam nunc temporis a vulgo, peculiari quadam et ignota vi ignis ardorem repellere creditur. Est sane nihil aliud hæc vis antipyretica, quam *frigidi* animalis humida et naturalis temperies, cujus ope paulo longius ab ignis impetu manet inconsumptum, quam aliarum substantiarum major siccitas.





# THE SALAMANDER.



## *GENERIC CHARACTER.*

*Body four-footed, tailed, naked.*

## *SPECIFIC CHARACTER.*

**LIZARD** with cylindric shortish tail and unarmed feet; the fore-feet divided into four toes, the body porous and naked.

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There seems to prevail in the human mind an inherent propensity to the marvellous. Not contented with the variety of real miracles which Nature through all her kingdoms so liberally exhibits, the world has long been entertained with the histories of ideal wonders and imaginary monsters, which never existed but in the brains of their first describers.

Amongst beings of this class must be reckoned the large dragons described by the old writers; the Lamia, described as having the head and breasts of a woman, with a body like that of a panther, and covered with scales: to this order must also be referred the ideal Salamander of the vulgar; which is thought capable of living unhurt in the fire,

The real Salamander is nothing more than a smallish lizard, which is found very frequently in Germany,  
and



and many other parts of Europe. It is of a black colour, ornamented on the sides and belly with large and longish marks or spots of a rich yellow or gold-colour, and which are frequently somewhat irregular in their shape and disposition. It is covered over with pores or small foramina, through which exudes the moisture with which it is generally covered: these pores are most conspicuous near the head: the tail is of a moderate length, and is roundish, or somewhat cylindrical, and gradually tapers to the end.

Such is the animal of which so many incredible tales have been recited, and which still continues to be regarded by the ignorant as possessed of the power of repelling the effect of fire; a power which it possesses in no higher degree than a frog, a snail, or any other moist substance, which is not so immediately consumed as those of a drier nature.